

**John Kirkpatrick to George Washington, July 21, 1758,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM JOHN KIRKPATRICK, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA 21st. July 1758 —

DEAR SIR

Your intelligence of the 12th. came regularly to hand—in which no circumstance equals the agreeable account of your good health—the only blessing necessary for Life—but more especially to promote Spirit & pleasure in the Toils of a Campaigne

The invariable attention, indefatigably pursued by the Pennsilvanians, without regard to the common interest, for advancing their private fortunes—have long been glaring proofs of a Selfish & Sordid principle — which will ever prevail to obstruct the Generous attempts of their associates for Liberty and Property—and this instance of the partiality paid them by Signior St. Cl—r the Bashaw¹—is certainly owing to the influence of that meanness—wrought upon his Foible by some fellow of address—but Quere,—how far the Bashaw's penetration can carry him to distinguish in matters of such importance—where prejudice—or rather pride in the first place—attended wt. the love of power—passion—and Self Sufficiency—Conspire to put him into Motion—We must undoubtedly expect nothing but irregularities & inconsistencies, from Such a Contrasted Character —

We who view the actions of high life at so vast a distance, can only form conjectures—agreeable to the small extent of our knowledge—& ignorant of the comprehensive Schemes

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intended—mistake plaguily in Judging by the piece—Perhaps the Pensilvanians—had plan'd Some grand Affair—to be perfected a Century hence—by cutting a Road from Rays Town—however, all Jestings apart—this delay and triffling of time is a Lamentable matter—We had accounts last Post of the armys landing & incamping at Louisburg—and expect by this time they have reduced it—however, you have the news more particularly & readier at Fort Cumbd. than we—therefore I need not repeat them —

Your Regiments attachmt. and Spirit to the Service, shews itself not only in Change of Dress—adapted to the Service—but in every Steddy purpose for the publick Good—that motives of patriotism and principles of true Honour can inspire—as they have always been the Spring of Your Actions—may they produce their due reward for the toils that accompany them—A Glorious & Peaceful retirement—to the pleasures of private Life —

To tell you our Domestick occurrences woud look silly—& ill sute your time to peruse—We have dull Barbecues—and yet Duller Dances—An Election causes a Hubub for a Week or so—and then we are dead a While—Yesterday Geo: Mason & Geo: Johnston—were Chosen for Fairfax—Francis Lee & James Hamilton for Loudoun—Other Matters are not worth notice—to speake of Tobo. to You—is Still more impertinent—tho' it is Tobo. in reality this Summer—and exceeds the highest prices for many Years—30/ Curry. has absolutely been given & 25/ is frequent—whoever consigns Tobo. surely must be Enemy's to their own interest —

Your friends Salute You wt. the greatest Respect — & Unite their Wishes with me for Your Health & Happy Success—I am

Dear Colo. Your Most Affect. Servt. JNO. KIRKPATRICK. P. S. I'm astonish'd Doctr.

Craik² does not write—I fancy his hands are full

1 The writer by “Signor St. C—r” substitutes Major St. Clair for General Forbes. The latter was believed by the Virginians and Marylanders to have been too much under a Pennsylvania influence, in resolving to make this new road across the mountains from Carlisle to Fort Duquesne, by way of Raystown, in opposition to the Braddock road by way of Forts Frederic and Cumberland favored by Washington. Washington wrote to Governor Fauquier

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on this subject: "The Pennsylvanians, whose present as well as future interest it was to have the expedition conducted through their government, and along that way, because it secures their frontiers at present, and their trade hereafter, a chain of forts being erected, had prejudiced the General absolutely against the old road, and made him believe that we were the partial people, and determined him at all events to pursue that route." See, also, Governor Robinson's letter of September 13, 1758, with particulars regarding the action of the Virginia Assembly on what they imagined was partiality shown to Pennsylvania.

2 Dr. Craik undoubtedly had "his hands full." He was working zealously for Washington: the election was to take place on the 24th.